

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-03 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 021220Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8920

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR VE

SUBJECT: R/V TRIDENT CRUISE TR-L66 OF 26 APRIL - 9 MAY 1975

REF: STATE 119641

1. EMBASSY FEELS THAT DELAYS IN OBTAINING CLEARANCE FOR RESEARCH VESSELS ARE PROCEDURAL AND NOT DELIBERATE EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE SUCH TRIPS.

2. THE PROBLEM HAS EXISTED FOR MANY YEARS AND EMBASSY DOES NOT RECALL ONE SINGLE CASE WHERE CLEARANCE WAS OBTAINED WITHIN A COMFORTABLE TIME LIMIT. A SHORT EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEDURE MIGHT THROW SOME LIGHT ON THE SITUATION.

3. REQUESTS ARE MADE BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS, IN TURN, REQUESTS CLEARANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING: MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; NAVY; MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, COMMUNICATIONS, AGRICULTURE, MINES AND HYDROCARBONS; THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH (CONICIT), THE COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITIES. ALL OF THESE IN TURN HAVE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS GIVE THEIR OPINION AND CLEARANCE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SUCH A SYSTEM HAS BUILT-IN DELAYS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO ACCELERATE THE PROCEDURE AND HAS AT TIMES GRANTED VERBAL CLEARANCE, ALTHOUGH ALL THE OTHER SUB-CLEARANCES HAD NOT COME IN.

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4. THE EMBASSY WILL MAKE ATTEMPTS TO ALLEVIATE THE

SITUATION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. IT IS SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT US RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS UTILIZE THEIR PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS WITH VENEZUELAN RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS AND REQUEST THEM TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY SUB-CLEARANCES BEFORE EMBASSY REQUESTS DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE. IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT LOCAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, THE VENEZUELAN SCIENTISTS COULD EASILY OBTAIN THESE PERMITS AND REQUEST THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BE NOTIFIED ACCORDINGLY. BY THE TIME EMBASSY'S NOTE ARRIVES, MOST OF THE WORK WILL BE DONE IF SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME IS GIVEN. VENEZUELAN SCIENTISTS HAVE SUFFICIENT STATURE TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THIS TYPE OF COOPERATION FROM VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS.
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